My friends and myself are considerably perturbed at this kind of development which is unheard of and unthinkable in this State. I have ventured to bring these circumstances to your notice as I feel that these incidents create a serious situation, which call for your immediate attention and enquiry.

In the meanwhile I pray that I may be protected from such annoyance and intimidation."

Having regard to what has happened, and judged by the materials now before the Government, it is impossible to say that it is a definite matter of urgent public importance. So far as one can judge from the letter of Mr. Mathew Muthalali, a bicyclist came and patted him heavily on the back, and set up an altercation in regard to his not giving way to him. Whether that has any greater significance more than what is stated in the letter it is difficult to say although Mr. Muthalali seems to indicate that it has some connection with the other assault adverted to. It is impossible now to say that the incident is not the result of some private animosity. As it is, there is no material to make it a matter of public importance. What may become a matter of public importance is the possible insecurity of life and person created by such events. In regard to that matter, it goes without saying that it will be the duty of this Government—indeed, it is the duty of any Government—to see to it that no such feeling of insecurity is produced in the minds of the public; and Government will undertake and will make it their duty to sift the matter to the bottom and make all the necessary and possible enquiries. They feel that it ought not to be possible for anybody in this State to complain legitimately of personal insecurity. On the materials now before the Government, they are not in a position to say that it has any public repurcussion or public significance. On that ground, I rule the motions out of order.

Immediately on receipt of the letter from Mr. Muthalali, it was forwarded to the Commissioner of Police for urgent enquiry and report, and the Government have also written to Mr. Muthalali about such enquiry. This is the letter from the Chief Secretary to Mr. Muthalali—

"With reference to your letter dated the 22nd January 1938, addressed to the Dewan, I have the honour to inform you that it has been forwarded to the Commissioner of Police for urgent enquiry and report."

The report of the Commissioner of Police is being awaited.

The Kodayar Project—Failure of.

I have received also the following two notices from Messrs. Jebamony Nadar and Narayanaperumal Nadar;

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR:

"To discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance namely—

The appalling distress prevailing in South Travancore as the Pachipara Reservoir is failing to supply even the bearest minimum quantity of water to keep alive the paddy cultivation raised during the current agricultural season."

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[President.]

MR. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR :

"As I intend to move the following adjournment motion on 25th January 1938, I request leave being granted for the same :

This Assembly begs to bring to the notice of the Government, the extreme hardship caused to the ryots of the areas commanded by the Kodayar Project because of the recent failure of rain and insufficiency of water in the Pachipara Reservoir and careless distribution of water in irrigating the wet lands assessed to land tax."

Drought in South Travancore.

I have also received notices of the following two motions from Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai and Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai about the general scarcity of water in South Travancore.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI :

"I intend asking for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a matter of urgent definite public importance mainly the situation created among the agriculturists of Manamari Tank area in South Travancore due to the prevailing drought."

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI :

"I wish to move that the House do now adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance namely, the present situation in Nanjinad on account of unprecedented drought causing alarming loss to the ryots."

There is no doubt that these motions are in order, and I take it that it will be the general sense of the House to have them discussed. I do not therefore propose to go through the formality of ascertaining the sense of the House. The matter will be discussed tomorrow afternoon at the usual time.

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPOSE (*Tiruvalla*) : Sir, may I submit, with respect to your ruling on the adjournment motions about the assaults on two journalists, that the ruling was based on information which the Government has obtained on petitions presented to Government by the journalists themselves. I ask you, Sir, is it right that the President of this Assembly should rule out a motion for adjournment on information received by the Government. It may be that the members that move for the adjournment of the house may have other aspects and other points of view to put forward. I ask you, Sir, whether it is desirable as a matter of constitutional precedure that the President should resort to Government records and rule out motions for adjournment, on information contained in such records.

PRESIDENT : The interruption, in so far as it is a reflection on the ruling of the Chair, is not in order.

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPOSE : I beg your pardon, Sir. I did not in the least mean any reflection on the ruling. I raised the question as a matter of enquiry about a question of fundamental importance to this House.

PRESIDENT : In so far as such enquiry seeks to question the ruling of the Chair, it is out of order. Having said that, I think it is my duty to deal with the matter which has been raised by way of insinuation, n order that the question might be put on its proper perspective.

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